

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJECT: BHUTTO STATEMENT ON LEBANON

1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO JANUARY 14 ISSUED PRESS STATEMENT ON LEBANESE CRISIS, FIRST GOP OFFICIAL COMMENT ON ISSUE. ACCORDING TO MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MIDDLE EAST, STATEMENT IS DESIGNED TO EXPRESS PAKISTAN POSITION ON LEBANON FOR FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC AUDIENCES AND SHOULD NOT BE READ AS ANY SIGNAL ON BHUTTO'S PART THAT HE WISHES TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN EFFORTS TO WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING OFFICIAL, FOREIGN OFFICE HAD BEEN CONSIDERING WORKING UP SUCH A STATEMENT FOR SOME TIME. STATEMENT RELEASED JANUARY 14, HE SAID, WAS ACTUALLY DRAFTED IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE BY SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR INFORMATION YUSUF BUCH. ITS TIMING WAS PROMPTED BY DETERIORATION OF LEBANESE SITUATION.

2. OFFICIAL STATED THAT GOP CONTINUED TO SUPPORT, AT LEAST PASSIVELY, SHAH'S SUGGESTION THAT ISLAMAC FOREIGN MINISTERS MAKE EFFORT TO SOLVE LEBANESE PROBLEM. HE RECALLED THAT MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AHMED HAD ENDORSED THIS PROPOSAL DURING HIS VISIT TO TEHRAN LAST MONTH.

3. IN STATEMENT, BHUTTO SAID PAKISTAN ABHORRED INTER-
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REFERENCE BY ONE STATE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER.

"IN SPEAKING ON THE SIDE OF PRINCIPLE, OUR PURPOSE IS TO CALL FOR AN END TO THE INTERVENTION OF THOSE EXTERNAL FORCES WHICH PREVENT CONCILIATION AND CONCORD IN LEBANON." THE PRESERVATION OF THE UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON IS VITAL TO THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE MIDDLE EAST, BHUTTO SAID. "THE LEBANESE STATE CAN ONLY SURVIVE IF ITS PEOPLE UNITE IN A DETERMINATION TO FRUSTRATE ALL CONSPIRACIES DESIGNED TO PLUNGE THE COUNTRY INTO A FULL-SCALE CIVIL WAR LEADING TO ANOTHER BANGLADESH." BHUTTO CALLED ON THE LEBANESE PEOPLE TO HALT THEIR SUICIDAL CONFLICT, RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES, AND REUNITE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR SOCIETY AND STATE. HE SAID IT WAS PAKISTAN'S MOST EARNEST HOPE THAT THE FORCES OF NATIONAL UNITY WILL ASSERT THEMSELVES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER ASSERTED THAT "THE FRIENDS OF LEBANON STAND READY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION" HE SAID THAT PAKISTAN WELCOMES THE CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES ALREADY TAKEN BUT WAS CONVINCED THAT MORE CONCRETE MEASURES WERE NECESSARY. TOUCHING ON PAKISTAN'S ROLE, HE SAID THAT "WHATEVER BE THE TRANSIENT DIFFICULTIES FACING OUR COUNTRY, WE WILL NOT LAPSE INTO A TIMID PASSIVITY WHEN HIGH MORAL ISSUES ARE AT STAKE AND A FRATERNAL PEOPLES' DESTINY IS STILL IN THE BALANCE." " ...THE APPREHENSION THAT SOME POWER OR ANOTHER MIGHT NOT AGREE WITH OUR POSITION WILL NOT MAKE US INDEFFERENT OR SUPINE" HE ASSERTED. BYROADE

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